

## Winneshiek County

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### Community Health Needs Assessment Snapshot

#### Promote Healthy Behaviors

##### Problems/Needs:

- Oral Health: There is a lack of dentists that accept Medicaid coverage, and others either cannot afford dental care or have no dental insurance. Nationally the percentage of Americans who put off needed dental care rose to 17% in 2009, up from 11% in 1997.
- Mental Health: There is still a perceived need for additional providers as locally the waiting period for an appointment is 6 months. We do not have a place/program for stabilizing mentally unstable clients who are do not need to be committed to a facility.
- Infant, Child and Family Health: We have found there are many un and underinsured individuals and often these populations are unaware of available services. Statistics indicate there are roughly 10% of Iowa's population is uninsured.

#### Prevent Injuries

##### Problems/Needs:

None identified

#### Protect Against Environmental Hazards

##### Problems/Needs:

- Hazardous Waste: There is no site within the county for hazardous waste disposal.
- Drinking water protection: Due to the number of animal confinements in the county and the limestone carst, there is concern for damage to the aquifer system.
- Healthy Homes (radon and lead poisoning): Many homes in the area are very old and while being remodeled and new homes being built for energy efficiency; the house is no longer able to breathe thus contributing to health problems.

#### Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease

##### Problems/Needs:

None identified

## Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Public Health Emergencies

### Problems/Needs:

None identified

## Strengthen the Public Health Infrastructure

### Problems/Needs:

- Access to quality health care: National statistics indicate an increasing number of individuals who are skipping or delaying health care. 7.9% of Iowa's population has reported not being able to see their doctor because of the cost. 9.2% (1932 people) of Winneshiek County residents report their health as poor to fair.
- Health Insurance Coverage: National statistics indicate a growing number of individuals without private health insurance.
- Transportation: Access to health care appears to be dependent on access to transportation. There is limited rural route availability due to costs and fewer agencies are allowing funding for transportation.

## Community Health Improvement Plan

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Increase the accessibility to dental care as reported by persons by 2%.	1. Continue to encourage WIC contractor holder to have dental hygienist available at all WIC clinic sites.	Winneshiek County Public Health, WIC contractor holder (currently Clayton County VNA), Iowa Department of Public Health	immediate and continuing
	2. Link clients to nearby colleges that may provide such a service often at a reduced fee (used as clinicals/trainings for students).	Winneshiek County Public Health, Decorah Area Free Clinic, Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation	June 2011
	3. Encourage use of Mission of Mercy for those in need.	Winneshiek County Public Health, Decorah Area Free Clinic, Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation	September 2011 and each time a Mission of Mercy event is scheduled

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Establish a program that will help to stabilize persons in need of assistance/experiencing a crisis but who do not need a committal process as evidenced by a decrease in the number of committals.	1. Collaborate with community partners to develop ROSC/ROSA program.	Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health, Winneshiek County CPC, Winneshiek County Public Health	July 2011
	2. Develop a crisis plan for all mental health clients.	Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health, Winneshiek County CPC, Winneshiek County Case Management, Winneshiek County Public Health	immediate
	3. Maintain a listing of available mental health facilities and counseling centers in the area.	Winneshiek County Public Health, Winneshiek County CPC, Winneshiek County Case Management	immediate

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Empower the community to increase awareness of Healthy Homes initiatives.	1. Provide educational literature at the County Courthouse.	Winneshiek County Environmental Health, Winneshiek County Public Health	January 2012
	2. Provide educational series for public to learn about these topics via newspaper articles or face-to-face meetings.	Winneshiek County Environmental Health, Winneshiek County Public Health	January 2012
	3. Continue to offer radon kits.	Winneshiek County Public Health, Indoor Air Coalition	December 2011
	4. Consider seeking involvement of Winneshiek Energy District (will need to determine if licensed individuals).	Winneshiek Environmental Health, Winneshiek County Public Health	January 2012

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Increase awareness to Winneshiek County residents on the availability of services for Infant, Child and Family Health as evidenced by an increase in the number of requests for brochures and/or an increase in the number of general public to agency seeking information.	1. Develop a repository site for programming information.	Winneshiek County Public Health	January 2012
	2. Collaborate with corporate workplace wellness sites for referrals.	Winneshiek County Public Health	July 2012
	3. Ensure that education is available at WIC clinics, churches, and medical clinics.	Winneshiek County Public Health	January 2012
	4. Develop a marketing campaign creating awareness of services available at Winneshiek County Public Health.	Winneshiek County Public Health	July 2011

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Create awareness of programs that may assist families that have no insurance or for those that do not qualify for insurance.	1. Develop a marketing campaign creating awareness of services available at Winneshiek County Public Health.	Winneshiek County Public Health	July 2011
	2. Collaborate with corporate workplace wellness sites for referrals.	Winneshiek County Public Health	January 2012
	3. Support the Decorah Area Free Clinic pursuit of becoming a Community Care Center, pending funding.	Decorah Area Free Clinic	September 2012

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Assess county transportation deficits.	1. Encourage and seek pursuit of grant opportunities for funding related to perceived and reported transportation needs.	Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation-- Transit, Department of Human Services	2012
	2. Conduct a survey in clinic settings to determine the anticipated need for increased transportation services and among homecare agency clients.	Winneshiek County Public Health, area medical clinics	September 2011

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Establish a county plan for disposal of hazardous waste products such as paint, oil, etc. so that the general public expresses knowledge about available site (currently only Howard-Mitchell Landfill).	1. Coordinate with Spectrum Recycling for a residential county-wide clean up day(s) to be offered annually at a minimum.	Spectrum Recycling, Winneshiek County Public Health	April 2011
	2. Provide education on specifics of what and where some items can be recycled, such as CFLs.	Spectrum Recycling, Winneshiek County Public Health	April 2011

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Continue/Increase plugging of abandoned wells and replacement or update of onsite wastewater systems as evidenced by number of requests received by County Sanitarian.	1. Inform and educate the public, owners and contractors about water wells, drinking water, and septic systems.	Winneshiek County Environmental Health (Sanitarian)	current and on-going
	2. Encourage loop-hole closure of the Master Matrix by legislature.	Legislature, citizens to contact their legislators	current and on-going